

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 030027
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-05 /071 R

DRAFTED BY OSD:HOLTZCLAW:EUR/RPM:REHFELD
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
PM/ISP:MR BROWN
OSD/ SEC BROWN
EUR/CE:DANDERSON

-----100332Z 118807 /70

P R 100042Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030027

FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE- FROM SECRETARY BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS

SUBJECT: NATO AEW

REF: A. USNATO 645, 051407Z FEB 77
B. USNATO 639, 051044Z FEB 77, C. USNATO 632,041745Z FEB 77
D. USNATO 599, 031525Z FEB 77 E.USNATO 689, 081654Z FEB 77

1. YOUR MESSAGE (REF A) REPORTING FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S
VIEWS ON NATO AEW AS RELAYED BY AMBASSADOR PAULS WAS MOST
HELPFUL. WE WOULD LIKE TO USE YOUR CHANNEL THROUGH PAULS
TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE CONCERNS SCHMIDT EXPRESSED AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 030027

WOULD LIKE YOU TO DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING IN FUTURE DIS-
CUSSION WITH PAULS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED TECHNOLOGICAL
ASPECTS OF THIS SYSTEM WITH FRG OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE FRG
MOD IS FULLY INFORMED ON THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS OVERALL
COST OF THE E-3A. IN ADDITION, DR. LABERGE HAS ANSWERED

PREVIOUS QUESTIONS FROM GENERAL WUST WHICH SHOULD BE OF USE IN RESOLVING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S QUESTION.

3. INDEED, DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE US HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THE ALLIANCE ABOUT THE E-3A SYSTEM, AT MANY AND THROUGH

NUMEROUS CHANNELS, INCLUDING VISITS BY USAF EXPERTS, E.G., MAJOR GENERAL PUSTAY IN NOVEMBER AND BRIG GENERAL PIOTROWSKI LAST MONTH. NATO MILITARY OFFICIALS APPEAR WELL SATISFIED WITH THE TECHNICAL DATA AT THEIR DISPOSAL, UPON WHICH THEY HAVE BASED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS CONCERNING ENHANCEMENTS, FORCE SIZE, ETC.

4. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISPATCH A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO BONN TO DISCUSS ANY POINTS THE CHANCELLOR MAY WISH TO RAISE REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ENHANCEMENTS AND OVER-ALL COSTS PLANNED FOR THE NATO CONFIGURATION OF THE E-3A. WE OF COURSE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING PRECISELY WHAT QUESTIONS THE CHANCELLOR HAS ON HIS MIND AND AN INDICATION FROM THE FRG THAT A US TEAM WOULD BE WELCOME IN BONN TO DISCUSS THEM, AND WHEN.

5. BRIGADIER GENERAL PIOTROWSKI WILL BRIEF IN THE HAGUE ON FEB 16 AND IN COPENHAGEN ON FEB 17. IF FEB 15 OR 18 ARE ACCEPTABLE, THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO RESPOND ALSO TO THE FRG. WE CAN SEND ADDITIONAL EXPERTS IF NEEDED ,INCLUDING MAJOR GENERAL SKANTZE, AWACS PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TO ADDRESS PROGRAM ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 030027

ARE AWARE OF REPORTED GERMAN CONCERNS THAT WE ARE "OVER SELLING" AWACS AND DO NOT WISH TO SEND EITHER GENERAL PIOTROWSKI OR SKANTZE IF THEIR MISSIONS MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND MOD BONN MAY BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE CHANCELLOR'S CONCERN IN-HOUSE.

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, IN VIEW OF THE FRG'S REPEATED INTEREST IN THE FULL NATO CHARACTER OF AN AEW PROGRAM, MNC OR MC REPRESENTATIVES MAY ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS THEIR REQUIREMENTS, FORCE STRUCTURE, AND OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS WITH APPROPRIATE FRG AUTHORITIES. YOU COULD ASK PAULS (AND LABERGE) IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS CONCERN THAT FURTHER US EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS A "HARD SELL."

7. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REPORTED OBSERVATION ON THE SYSTEM'S EFFECTIVENESS AND USEFULNESS IN MARITIME ROLES AND IN PROVIDING EARLY WARNING OF LOW-LEVEL ATTACKING AIRCRAFT IS CORRECT. WE HOPE HE IS ALSO AWARE OF THE E-3A'S

CAPABILITIES IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE AIR BATTLE. AWACS ALSO HAS THE CAPABILITY TO TRACK HOSTILE INTRUDER AND/OR PERMIT GROUND CONTROLLERS TO DIRECT AIRCRAFT OR MISSILES TO INTERCEPT IT. THANKS TO THIS CAPABILITY, AN OPERATIONAL AEW FORCE BASED ON THE E-3A WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING AIRCRAFT AND MISSILE AIR DEFENSES. WHILE DETERMINATION OF THE PRECISE "MULTIPLIER EFFECT" FOR EACH SYSTEM IS COMPLEX AND AT THIS STAGE

THEORETICAL, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS SUGGESTS THAT ONE E-3A IN THE 4 ATAF SECTOR IN CENTRAL EUROPE INCREASES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING NATO AIR DEFENSE FORCES BY AT LEAST 45 PERCENT DURING AN INITIAL MASSIVE RAID.

8. REGARDING THE CHANCELLOR'S REPORTED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COST OF THE SYSTEM, HOW COSTS ARE CALCULATED, AND WHETHER THE US REALLY KNOWS HOW MUCH IT WILL COST, WE FIRMLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 030027

BELIEVE THAT THE RISK OF COST ESCALATION IS ACCEPTABLY LOW. THE SYSTEM IS BASED ON THE USAF E-3A, WHICH IS IN FULL PRODUCTION WITH SEVERAL AIRCRAFT FLYING. QUESTIONS ON COSTS AND POTENTIAL RISKS FOR THE ENHANCEMENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE NEW, CAN BEST BE ADDRESSED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND TO BONN.

9. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S IMPRESSION THAT NATO AEW IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE DATA "DISCRIMINATING AND PROVIDING WARNING OF CONCENTRATIONS OF TANKS AND OTHER GROUND FORMATIONS" COULD HAVE BEEN BASED ON AWACS'S ABILITY TO LOCATE FRIENDLY GROUND FORCES, IF IFF-EQUIPPED. AT NO TIME HOWEVER HAVE US OR NATO PLANNERS ADVANCED RATIONALE FOR THE E-3A SYSTEM BASED ON WARNING OF ENEMY GROUND ATTACK OR LOCATING FRIENDLY FORCES. THE RATIONALE FOR AWACS STANDS SOUNDLY ON GROUNDS OF AIR DEFENSE, MARITIME SURVEILLANCE, AND POLITICAL/MILITARY CRISIS MANAGEMENT.

10. PAULS' COMMENT THAT GERMANY EXPECTS THE US TO SHOW "MORE FLEXIBILITY." YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO HIM THE SECRETARY BROWN JANUARY 31 LETTER TO LEBER MAKES CLEAR OUR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE FRG SHOWING FLEXIBILITY OF COSTS AND SHARES.

11. TIMING OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEPEND IN PART ON LEBER'S REPLY TO SECRETARY BROWN'S LETTER. AS A WORKING HYPOTHESIS, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE MINISTERS' MEETING SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO LATER IN MARCH PER UK POSITION AS OUTLINED REF C; WITH MARCH 23 OUR PREFERRED DATE. THIS SHOULD ALLOW OPPORTUNITY FOR RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS REMAINING BETWEEN US AND FRG. ASSUMING THAT WE REACH A

CONSENSUS WITH THE FRG, WE AGREE THAT A THIRD FINANCIAL
EXPERTS' MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED APPROXIMATELY THREE
WEEKS PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL. WE ALSO CONCUR WITH UK
POSITION THAT POSITIVE MINISTERIAL POSITION ON NATO AEW
MUST BE REACHED NLT END OF MARCH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 030027

12. IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING US-FRG DISCUSSIONS, WE DO NOT
PROPOSE AT THIS TIME TO COMMENT ON ASYG LABERGE'S MOST
RECENT COST-SHARING PROPOSAL (REF C). ONCE WE HAVE A
CLEARER PICTURE OF FRG POSITION WE WILL PROVIDE OUR VIEWS.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CONSULTANTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE030027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HOLTZCLAW:EUR/RPM:REHFELD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0327
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770254/aaaabvji.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cc4a74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3353003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO AEW
TAGS: OCON, MILI, US, GE, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cc4a74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009